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In the Claims

Please add new Claims 215 and 216.

215. (New) An antibody produced by murine hybridoma GPR96-1 or an antigen-binding fragment thereof.

216. (New) The murine hybridoma GPR96-1.

REMARKS

Claims 215 and 216 have been added. Claims 46-50 and 76-216 are pending.

Support for new Claims 215 and 216 is found throughout the application as filed, for example, in original Claims 60 and 61, respectively.

In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed on July 10, 2001 (Paper No. 4), Applicants elected the claims of Group VI (Claims 46-50), drawn to a method of modulating a GPR-9-6 function, for prosecution. (Corrected Second Preliminary Amendment and Reply to Restriction Requirement at page 29 ("Reply").) At pages 29-30 of the Reply, Applicants also noted the following:

- (1) Group I appeared to be more accurately defined as an antibody, cell which produces antibody (including isolated cell, hybridoma cell) and kit;
- (2) Claims 60 and 61, drawn to an antibody produced by hybridoma GPR96-1 and hybridoma GPR96-1, should have been included in Group I rather than Group VII, which is defined as a method of detecting mammalian TECK, because murine hybridoma GPR96-1 produces an antibody which binds GPR-9-6 (see, Specification at page 20, line 12 *et seq.*); and

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(3) Claims 76 and 77, drawn to compositions of matter, were improperly included in Group V, which the Examiner defined as being drawn to a method of treating a subject using an antagonist of GPR-9-6.

Claims 215 and 216, which are based on original claims 60, 61, respectively, have been added to the application to assist the Examiner in setting forth the groups to which the subject matter of these claims belong. Claims 76 and 77 are pending.

The Examiner is requested to indicate that the invention of Group I includes isolated cells which produce antibody and the subject matter of Claims 215 and 216 in the next Office Communication. The Examiner is also requested to indicate which group includes the subject matter of Claims 76 and 77.

Information Disclosure Statements

An Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) was filed on August 14, 2000 and Supplemental IDSs were filed on January 4, 2002 and April 26, 2002. Acknowledgment of consideration of the information provided in the IDS and Supplemental IDSs is respectfully requested in the next Office Communication.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (978) 341-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

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